

Amendment No. 1 to SB1287

Kelsey
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1287*

House Bill No. 1304

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 61, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Subject to available funding, the department of education shall issue a grant to an LEA or public charter school if the LEA or public charter school establishes a grant program to promote positive mental health for pre-kindergarten through grade five (pre-K-5) students, especially for students suffering from mental health issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) Each program established by an LEA or public charter school that receives a grant under this section must:

(1) Be implemented in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years;

(2) Make training available to school counselors, educators, and parents

to assist them in:

(A) Understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic has potentially affected students' mental health;

(B) Recognizing students who may be struggling with mental health issues, specifically mental health issues developed by students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(C) Identifying students with potentially severe mental health challenges who may need interventions;

(D) Informing program participants about methods and techniques of intervention for students experiencing mental health challenges; and

(E) Understanding the use of appropriate interventions based on the severity of students' mental health challenges;

(3) Include intervention techniques and resources to promote positive mental health for students; and

(4) Be implemented in compliance with § 49-2-124.

(c) If an LEA or public charter school establishes a program in accordance with this section, then the LEA or public charter school shall submit a report on the program's implementation and outcomes to the department by June 15, 2022, for the 2021-2022 school year, and by June 15, 2023, for the 2022-2023 school year. The report must identify:

(1) The number of students who participated in the program for the respective school year and the grade levels of the participants;

(2) The effects of the program on the mental health of students, including, but not limited to, if the program reduced the frequency of behavior referrals for student violence, vandalism, harassment, intimidation, or bullying; and

(3) How the LEA or public charter school evaluates the effectiveness of the program overall.

(d) The department shall prepare a report of the data submitted to the department pursuant to subdivision (c), and shall submit the report to the governor, the chair of the education committee of the senate, and the chair of the education administration committee of the house of representatives by July 1, 2022, for the 2021-2022 school year, and by July 1, 2023, for the 2022-2023 school year.

(e) The office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury shall review the data from the reports prepared pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d), and shall compile a report on the overall effectiveness of each program. The OREA shall submit its report on the overall effectiveness of each program and any recommendations for legislation to the general assembly by October 31, 2023.

(f) A student, who is under eighteen (18) years of age, shall not participate in the program unless the school has received from the student's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or caregiver under the Power of Attorney for Care of a Minor Child Act, compiled in title 34, chapter 6, part 3, written, active, informed, and voluntarily signed consent that may be withdrawn at any time by the parent, guardian, legal custodian, or caregiver permitting the student to participate. An LEA or public charter school implementing a grant program under this section shall submit progress reports of the student's activity in the program, at a frequency determined by the LEA or public charter school, to the student's parent, guardian, legal custodian, or caregiver.

(g) An educator who completes the training described in subdivision (b)(2) earns professional development points. The state board of education shall determine the amount of professional development points available to educators who complete the training.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-124(b)(3), is amended by deleting the language "or screening done in connection with a disaster or epidemic".

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.